

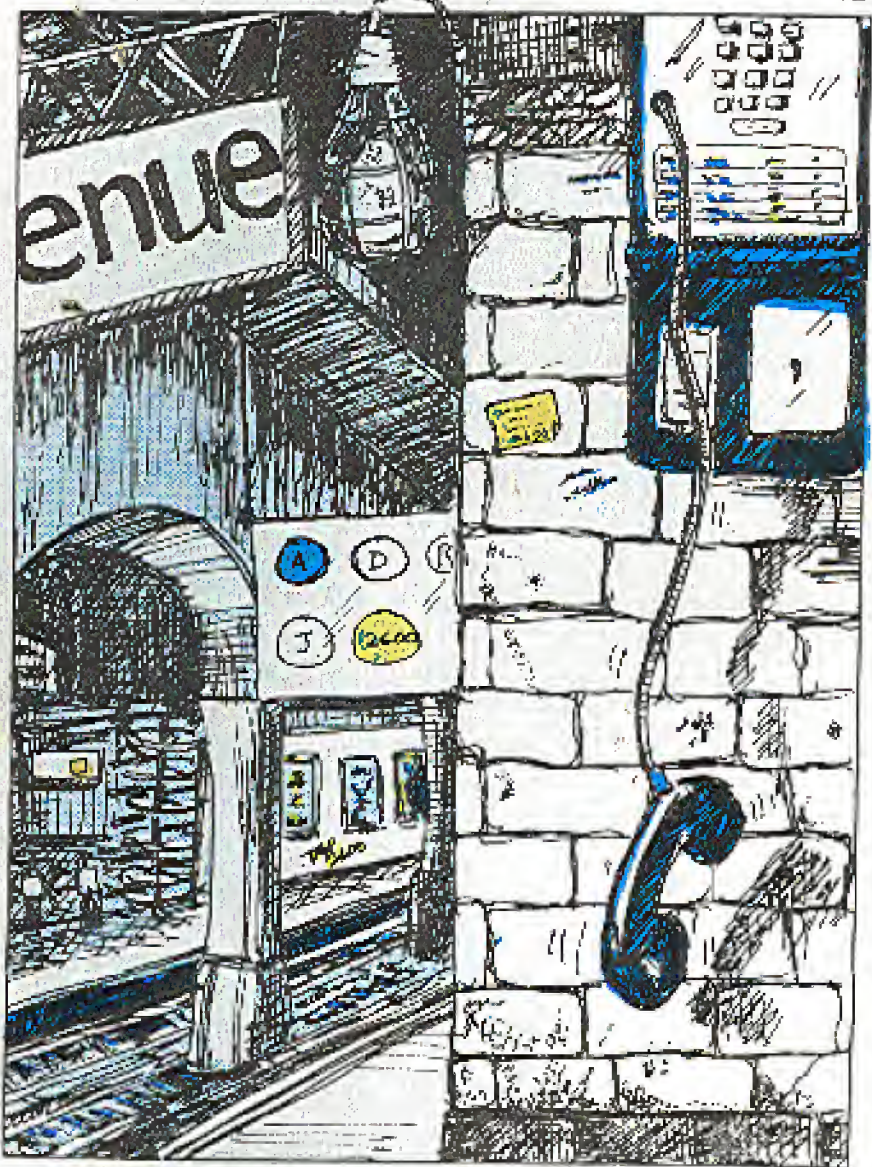
2600!



Volume 4, Number 1

January, 1987

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Changes

Well, we made it. As you can probably tell, our format has changed quite radically since our last issue. We are, to say the least, ecstatic that we've finally reached this stage. While the eight pages we had before were good for our original purposes, there were always things we couldn't do. Eight pages can be very restrictive.

Future articles in 2600 will be longer and more in depth. We have the ability to add an additional pages if we need them and we probably will.

We also are able to print photographs now, so we'd be happy to get some of those as well, preferably in black and white. Unusual or antique telephones, blue boxes, central offices, that kind of thing.

As we start our fourth year, we find we have indeed come a long way. Our first issue was mailed to less than a hundred people. We had no idea where it would wind up going but we just knew it had to be done. Today our subscribers

are in the thousands and include a large number of computer hackers and phone phreaks, an even larger number of people who are interested in developing their abilities, and a significant number of corporations and intelligence agencies that feel the need to keep up to date on technology and its abuses.

Our staff has multiplied as well, with people helping us out in most parts of the country and many other parts of the planet.

The world is changing too. We're becoming very dependent on computers for almost everything. This will backfire eventually and 2600 is here to explain how and maybe even when. It's no longer easy to make a telephone call. 2600 exists to show the world how it's done, present alternatives, and offer solutions.

Technological wizards no longer seem to be regarded as enemies of the people, at least not as much as when we first

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(continued on page 21)

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TAP: THE LEGEND

by Christine Conley

There are lots of ways I can start this article. But recently I'm sad that I have to write it like this—as an explanation as to why I let TAP die.

TAP was founded as VPL, the Youth International Party Line. There were two leaders of this name: The Youth International Party, or YIPpies, was a loose group of anarchists founded by Abbie Hoffman and Jerry Rubin, who later went on to become defendants in a trial in Chicago (called *Catch-22* by those in the know) at the time, just as the country was called America! And there was the pun on the telephone term Party Line.

As this is meant to be an historical account, I'll even define Party Line, since it is pretty rare, even today. It is where the Telephone Company (Taco) strings a line to the farthest party on the network, and everyone in between then and the central office is connected to it like extension phones. By using "switching" you know what a phone call was meant for you: it was common for people to listen to their neighbors' conversations, and thereby share the information. VPL was to be such a sharing of information among members of the party.

The Yippies realized that revolutions don't travel on their stomachs; a phone, they don't even travel if they can help it! After all, traveling costs money (only certain socialist money, of course). While there were methods for avoiding payments for travel (see Abbie's book "Steal This Book" for techniques), telecommunications was where it was at. With telephones, you could keep in touch with the revolution from the comfort of your Bleeker Street digs. And as the sixties ended, so did the monopoly of Pa Bell. The Phone Company.

In 1968, the favorable decision of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) decided that people could hook up their own devices to the phone network. Yet before all this, there had been experimenter, playing with The Bell System. These people called themselves Phone Pioneers, and had their own little underground dig in the heart of Bell's own network.

In 1971 (legend states on May Day, no less), Abbie Hoffman got together with a phone phreak who called himself "Al Bell." They got the idea of a newsletter so that members of the technological underground could have their own "journal" to share information on, just as the Bell System publishes information for its own engineers.

The newsletter went along in a pretty random

manner for about two years, and occasioned some rather sordid-sexy fro stuff, closely how to mess up The System, picking locks, making juke boxes, and other radical stuff.

So one day in 1974, Al Bell sent to himself, "What's all this political shit doing in what should have been a technical newsletter?" A good question, he thought, and promptly left the job of the Yippies, changed the name of the newsletter to TAP, and set up shop in a cheap, run-down office building on Broadway.

When Al Bell first viewed the newsletter away from the Yippies, he called it the Technological American Party. It was called that for a while, and then the name was changed to Technological Assistance Program (so as to keep the acronym). When I asked Tom why the name was changed, he said that they had had difficulty opening a bank account with "Party" in their name, without being a *Sore Side* political party. This run-down office is where I found the newsletter when I walked into the office in 1977. Where was I getting 1977? Well, I grew up in Western New York State. I later moved to Boston, and after a year in Beaumont, moved down to the Big Apple. I had been a subscriber while living Uplstate. I filed my change of address to my new Boston P.O. Box when I moved to there. I remembered when I moved to New York City, but never got around to dropping by on a Wednesday evening for about a year.

When I did, I found that Al Bell was no longer affiliated with the newsletter, and that "Tom Edison" had taken over the publication on what a random board. But what for?

If you got the newsletter in those days, it gave you the address of "The Mail Drop", a place where no one lived, but where the disseminable could collect their mail. It also said that if you wanted to help hold issues, send and lick envelopes, and all the other assorted jobs associated with putting out a newsletter, just come by to the office any Wednesday. So, one Wednesday, I did.

What I found when I finally showed up was an ancient, smelly copy that had made copies on expensive, thin paper (the kind that libraries always have for 25 cents a copy) that constantly broke down (just like the ones in libraries), a drafting table for laying out the issues, an old wooden desk full of "Distinction" Assistant's reference and unanswered mail, and a pile of articles waiting to be typed out.

There was also an unruly assortment of people there, like Nuno & Juana for the protagonist in Parake McGonagall's 60's TV series *The Professor*, Computer

IS DEAD

Ward, Dave Bowman (named for the contractor defining astragal in the movie 2001), and Mr. Itzels (named for the leader in the TV show Mission Impossible), and me, Christine Conley. Others dropped in from time to time, but these made up "The Regulars."

Then there were the authors who wrote articles for the newsletter. People like Alexander Murray (named for the lead in the TV show 4 Them) who wrote about locks, and Agnet, MDA, who wrote about fabricating drugs in the privacy of your own home laboratory. Authors don't come by the TAP offices much. After all, AT just published the stuff. Heaven forbid anyone should actually go any of the despicable acts written about. Those acts were probably illegal, removal, or at the very least, farcical.

TAP had a checklist of things to make sure were published in: every issue. Things like the mailing address, the postage, index, and those infamous words: "Published for Informational Purposes Only."

TAP had a real "good boy" attitude, which was one reason it was such fun to read: it was mischievous. Tom said he once got a letter from some little old lady in the midwest rewording her subscription saying, "I'd never let any of the things you print, but it's so good to know that someone is out there getting back at the phone company."

Let's face it: Taco was "The Damnyou You Love To Hate", in the classic motion picture. The President's Analyzer (starring James Cagney), there was an organization that invented the word-called TRC, which turned out to be The Phone Company; it still made out my check for phone service to The Phone Company.

They never bitch about it, and the companies at the bank don't care either.

So what did I do at TAP? I wrote a few articles especially in the days when the FAX telephone network was "usable" (in the telephone network, I mean my reputation on the fact that I could reach any TAPer reading in the World from any home computer terminal. Not completely for free, mind you. I did pay Teletype my own necessary unit for the phone call. But I mostly became TAP's press agent.

Like playing with "The Factory Machine", it helps to have a computer to keep the mailing list on. That computer can also Ward Process the press-release and the all-important cover letter. Tom Edison didn't like the press. TAP mostly got new subscribers by word of mouth. A subscriber showed it to his friends, and they'd maybe subscribe. Underground newspapers mentioned us occasionally. And of course, there was one annual sale.

Every year, in January, phone companies around the country would send their customers their new Credit Card (now called "Billing Card") for the year. There were methods for devising your own credit card number that would be acceptable to the telephone operator, but would be unusable. Since the billing cycle was much later in this month, this left the telco holding the bag, and if they called party knew enough to "play dumb" when Taco's facts called asking who made the call, everything would be all right. Of course, these calls were always made from pay phones, since the calling number was on the bill records.

The Yippies were still around, and still understood their telecommunications was the key to the revolution. (continued on page 11)

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STUMBLING INTO

By The Mob

Once a hacker has gained access to a VMS system, his goal should be to try to get hold of the most powerful privileges he can. Here are some tips on taking over a VMS system.

There are two routes to take—either through programming or by modifying the User Authorization File. The first method generally requires the CMKRNL privilege. This privilege allows one to modify the data structures used by the operating system. By writing the correct code a hacker can change his, or anyone else's, privileges and quotas. This method requires very detailed knowledge of the operating system and should be left only to the very experienced. If you don't know what you are doing, it's very likely that you will crash the system and if you do there will be an accurate and detailed record of what you did. (You should never take down a system because doing so leaves a trail that the system manager can use to track you down.)

The easier way to gain control of a system is through the User Authorization File or UAF. If you modify the UAF, you must log out and then log back on to get any privileges you added to your account. With programming you can make them take effect immediately. The one you pay is complexity.

First, here are some tips for breaking onto a VAX. Every VAX that is serviced by DEC has a Side Management Guide. This is a brown loose-leaf binder that the DEC field service people use to keep a maintenance log. Field service people like to write the FIELD password down in this book. If you can get a quick browse at it you may be able to come up with several passwords. If you find the FIELD password, you are all set to take control of the system.

The VT220 series terminals have an arrow-back feature that allows the terminal to save a character string that can be recalled by pressing CTRL/BACK. Users often make this character string `USERNAME(CIpassword@CR)`. This allows them to log in by pressing two keys. It also allows you to do the same thing. The way you can get in is by bringing up the username prompt and by pressing CTRL/BACK. You won't be able to see the password, though. To get the password, enter `SOLEATE PASSWORD.DAT CTRL/BACK CTRL/Z`. Then `STYPR PASSWORD.DAT`. This method is more likely to work with a terminal that is in someone's office as opposed to a terminal that is in a parking area.

Of course, the simplest way to get in is through a terminal that is left logged on. If you have access to a user area, you probably can find a terminal that has not been logged off.

A list of user names on a system is often helpful. In my experience, around 50% of all passwords are

usernames or slight variations on the username. This is especially true of such usernames as `GAME5`, `DRKO`, and `USER`.

Once you are logged on to a system, the way things you should do is enter the command `$DDEF/SYMBOL:MAIL/GLOBAL`. Digital-related file managers are filled with articles on how to spoof hackers and prevent them from doing things by defining global symbols. If you execute that command you have removed all of those silly little traps.

Now for taking over the VAX. First, the easy way. Once you are logged in use the `SHOW PROCS/SYSTEM` command to see if you have any of the following privileges:

`BYPASS`
`SYSTEM`
`SETPRV`
`CMKRNL`

If you do have one of these, you already have the system in your hands. If you have `BYPASS` or `SYSTEM` you can modify the UAF directly. Just enter the command `$$SET DEFAULT SYSSYSSTMT` and then the command `$SHOW AUTO/IDENTZ`. Then follow the Luthor's instructions in the VMS series, the last of which appeared in the March 1985 issue of 2600. If you have `SETPRV` you have all privileges available. Just enter the command `$$SET PROCESSES=ALL` and then follow the instructions above. If you have `CMKRNL` enter the command `$$SET UIC [UIC] and then follow the instructions above.`

Also, use the `$$SHOW PROCESSES` command and see if the first number of your UIC code is 10 (central) or less. UIC's look like 100.4. If you do, you have `SYSTEM` automatically even if it is not listed when you `SHOW PROCESSES/PRIV`.

An easy way for a system manager to help keep you out of his system is by not requiring any privileged accounts. Fortunately for the hacker, system managers will not follow this rule (often not by personal choice). The only privileged accounts that are needed to run a VMS system are the `FIELD` and `SYSTEM` accounts (the `FIELD` account is not absolutely required). In spite of this, very often executives or computer departments (as well as system managers) keep privileged accounts for themselves (presumably for good purposes) even though they have nothing to do with maintaining the system. Also, support people often have system privileges when they could get by with group privileges. At colleges, often many of the professors have privileged accounts. The reason is that they need to read their students' files. The more there are the more targets there are for the hacker. It's harder to get in at five people than at one. The `SYSTEM` password than if all five people have privileged accounts.

CONTROL ON A VMS

Here's a little story for you. When I was in college the "system's" people created a command called `OPRACLE` so that users could send them messages. For some reason they also created an account called `OPRACLE` to read the messages. Guess what: the password for the account was `OPRACLE` (alright, how did you know? Would you believe that this account had full privilege also? The whole school knew the password to the account.)

A smart system manager is also going to use the `SYSTEM` account only to manage the system and use a personal, nonprivileged account to program with and to write memos. Luckily for you, most system managers are lazy. They use their `CMKRNL` privileges to change their UIC code so that the `SYSTEM` account temporarily becomes their personal account (but with privileges, of course). The more the `SYSTEM` account is used, the more likely it is to be left logged on. In my experience, this is the absolute easiest way to get to take over a system. The `SYSTEM` account should only be used from a secure area.

When I was in college, I had a reputation for breaking into the computer. Now I am going to reveal the Mob's trick in secret to the world. Every time I go to it was because someone in the computer department had left a terminal logged on to a privileged account. There was the only period I ever used personally (although I did teach other people more sophisticated means). So I never broke in. I just walked right through the front door. As a direct result of my "teaching" of you can really call it that, the school created all sorts of rules governing computer use where all they really needed was some common sense from their "system's" people.

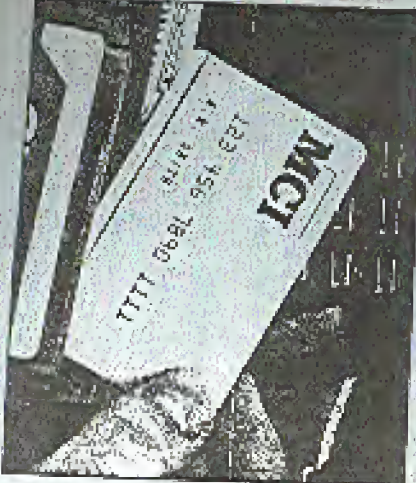
Once you're on a VMS system you should try to get a copy of the program `SYSSYSSTMT/AUTHORIZE EXE`. Once you get a copy of this program, bring it back to

your microcomputer, and save it. The `AUTHORIZE` program should be protected but often it is not. Once you get it from one system, it is good anywhere.

Now what do you do once you get your own `AUTHORIZE` program? Create a new UIC of course. Enter `$RUN AUTHORIZE`. That will generate an error saying that there is no UAF and a prompt asking if you want to create one. Of course you do, so you answer `YES`. Next, enter `UAF` `MODIFY SYS-TERMINAL/CLASS-MANAGER`. Now in your own `MANAGER` is the system password. So what good is having your own UAF when the system is not going to use it? Well, why not make the system use it? At this point you need a privilege called `SYSTEM`. Many programs, especially scientific ones, require that the user have it so it is not too difficult to find an account with this privilege. When you are logged on to the system, enter `$$SET PROCESSES/PRIV=ALL` and then `$$NO PROC/PRIV`. If you see `SYSTEM` listed you are in luck. Enter `$$SHOW DEFAULT` to get your directory name. Then enter `$DEFINE/SYSTEM:EXH; SYSUAF` (see directory `SYSYUAF.DAT`, where `dir` and `directory` are the names you get from the `SHOW DEFAULT` command). Now log out and log back on to the `SYSTEM` account using the password you just created.

`SYSTEM` privilege is also nice if you want to just screw up a system. By modifying such logical names as `SYSSYS/SRBOOT`, `SYSSYS/STMT`, `SYSSYS/SERVICE` you can bring the system to a halt.

If you have not guessed by now, I am a VMS system manager. I am assuming that many of the people who are reading this are other system managers who, like myself, are trying to keep hackers off of their systems. I think the benefit from a system manager reading this in a hacker publication is a greater than the fact that could come from hackers reading it.



At left: The brand new MCI "hard plastic" credit card. And just like AT&T, they always printed the wrong number on the card. Which means that if that hard doesn't belong to J. R. Smith, there's no need to remove the card. A simple glance at the numbers is all the more than enough to just know of fact. Any wonder why he went for the card before the money?

the telecom informer

by Dan Foley

Readers from the U.K. will be interested in the discovery of an easy hack on British Telecom pay phone debit cards making them virtually reusable. These cards aren't like AT&T calling cards which bill a customer's account, but instead come with a set number of calling units—either 5, 10, 20, 40, or 100. The card is the size of a credit card, and is made of thin metal. A number is printed on front indicating the number of calling units purchased. Also on the front in a band, about where the magnetic strip on a credit card is, there are tiny squares protruding from the surface, one for each calling unit unused. This method appeared in the front-page lead story in *The Sunday Post* in Scotland on December 14, 1986, with the banner headline: "Dial World Wide for Nothing—Telecom Hit by 'Phone Fraud'." The trick was discovered by a British soldier "fed up with paying a fortune to call his Scottish girlfriend," and the method is supposed to be spreading quickly among British troops.

The newspaper states that they know how it is done, and have proved that it works. The hack probably involves preventing the payphone from removing calling units, such as covering the squares with something that physically prevents this or inserting the card improperly.

Something more of interest to readers on the East Coast is Kaulphone, a telephone service presently available on

Amtrak Mezzeliners. They look like Bell Charge-a-Calls, and are located in the Amtrak and in the Czech sections of Metroliner trains. To use them, you insert a credit card and dial your call. You get a dial tone (almost immediately, which seems too soon to check to see if the card is valid or if there is enough money to cover the cost of the call). Rates presently are \$5 for the first minute, and \$1 for each additional, which is less than the ship-to-ship rates or services like Airphone, which are \$7.50 for the first 3 minutes, and additional at \$1.50. Kaulphone does have periods where it is "thruked-out" such as in tunnels, but it re-connects with no additional charge if you do get disconnected.

A topic looming on the telecom horizon is ISDN (Integrated Service Data Network), so here's a brief overview. The service will appear to the small user, as two 64 kilobit-per-second (kbps) full-duplex channels and one 16 kbps full-duplex channel on each ordinary telephone line. One of the 64 kbps channels would normally be used for voice, although it could be used for data. The 16 kbps channel would be used for both signaling (presumably replacing touch tone, etc.) and data, while the other 64 kbps channel would be entirely for data. If this service were provided at a reasonable price, then current "narrow-frequency" modems would soon be obsolete.

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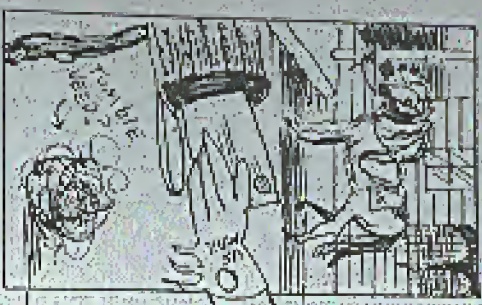
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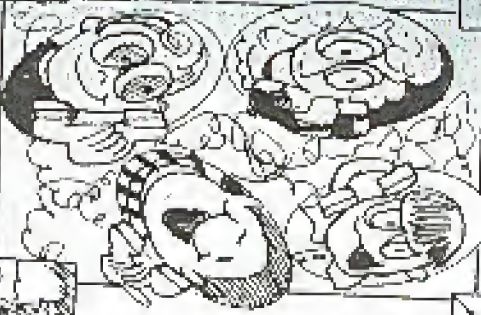


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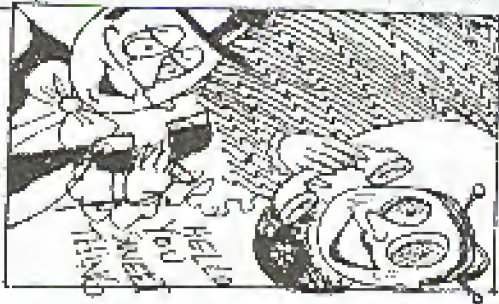
Evolution of the Telephone



1890's: Man of our time communicating to through the mail.



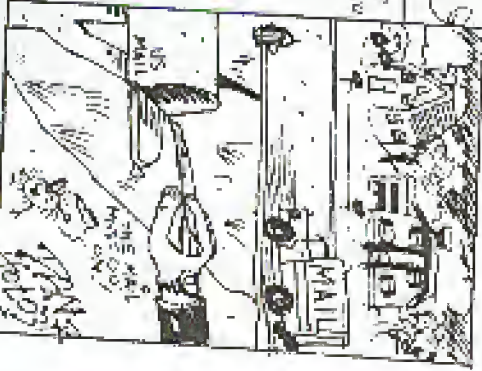
1970's: Almost everyone has a phone and everyone knows how to use it. Ever got marvelous little devices.



1920's: Gradually, the first primitive phone connections are established.



1980's: Development centers America by separating. Figuring out how to make a call becomes an absurd or knowing a foreign language.



1990's: Man of our time communicating through the mail.

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TAP

(continued from page 3)

but they'd realize that the only technology they needed to make their "Freedom Forecasts" was the credit card information. So each year there would be a race to see who completed the complete code first. It was a matter of honor to tell the other guy what the code was, because the first guy to get it would have to be credited in the other guy's publication. The Yippies had always put out their irregularly published *Liberac-Yippies' Notes* which later changed its name to *Shambhoo*. There were years when we got it to them first, but they'd get it in time.

TAP was published six-monthly. But it was mailed out with two issues in the envelope to save postage, one of the biggest expenses of the newsletter. This meant that three times a year, you'd get two newsletters, each printed on an 11 by 17 sheet of paper, folded into four 8 1/2 by 11 pages. Bulk mail subscribers got one issue folded up inside the other one, and the back of the second issue had space at the bottom of the last page for the postage label, the return address, and a mailing label.

Al Bell used a lot of the mailing labels at a college he used to go to that had an "open campus" design. For years after he dropped out, he'd drop back and do the labeling. After he left TAP, getting labels from him was getting to be a progressively "iffy" situation. Tom Edison took out a loan, and bought a \$61-20 personal computer, and learned to use the *Wordstar* and *Mailmerge* programs for keeping TAP's mailing list. Since there was never more than 1700 names on the list at any one time, it was manageable on the \$61-20's 8-inch floppy disk.

TAP's mailing list was never sealed out to other movement groups. Ours was a random bunch of people. We were writing articles about drugs and caps on telephones, and in people's lives. We knew better than anyone what "the wrong people" could do with a list of people who knew how to trace technology into their own homes.

Occasionally there would be a letter from some local newspaper in the town or somewhere, asking to be put in touch with TAP subscribers in their area. Tom would get in touch with them (usually calling collect), and tell them to send 25 copies of the letter in 25 stamped, unsealed envelopes, that services his own while saying that he'd mailed the letter, and it was up to the individual subscriber to get in touch with the newspaper, if they wanted to.

I got such a letter when I was living in Seattle, so I was familiar with the routine. I actually got in touch with the guy from the local "underground" newspaper in my town, and showed him back copies of TAP, and explained some of the jargon to him. This was the start of my education in "playing the publicity machine". From what I learned to have that, quite quotes that are right, cause, and get the point across. A good quote that has the right "ting" to it has a better chance of getting your point of view past the reporter's editor (the guy who freely decides whether your quote gets printed), than any long-winded "editorial" report that you might spout off with.

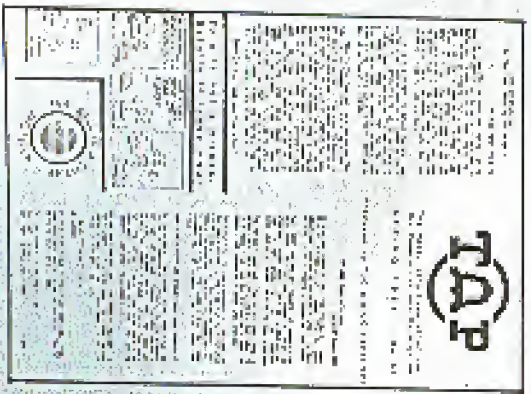
In 1983 I was working for a "Large Marketien Bank" in Madison, and I heard from an editor at *Technology Illustrated* magazine. They issued a largely unknown person in the scientific and/or technical community, and would I like to be interviewed for an article? Sure, why not? Little did I know how well their reporter had done. Even though the photographer had photographed my face in studios, or behind rays of light, or with my features blurred by motion, anyone who knew me well could have picked me out.

A number of people in the bank recognized me, since I was a technical troubleshooter for the data communications department. The word was getting around. There was a "sucker" working for the bank. Since the movie *Wargames* had come out, the bank had been given consultations of "real interviews" by the press, and there was little I could do to stop the tide. No one would listen to my boss who was trying to explain to anyone who would listen of the various security holes that I had pointed out to him for fixing. Within a week I was fired.

My landlord hassles had started up a few months before. Now I had an excuse for not paying the rent. I didn't have the money to pay. I could even go into TV.

DON'T EVEN THINK OF LISTENING!

(continued on page 14)



Bleepers

Dear 2600:

Do you have information on interception/decoding paging beepers (long range)?

No, but if we get it, we'll certainly print it.

GTE Telcos

Dear 2600:

I was wondering if GTE uses the same methods as Bell. I just moved to a part of the country that's GTE and it seems that there are quite a few phone numbers in the XXX-99XX range. Where do they keep their loops? What type of ESS system do they use, as I have access to all the custom calling features (how good of a security system)? Also, I'm having trouble using my LDX number through LDX's 800 number (the phone begins ringing after 3 digits). They said that we needed to dial a * before the code but this didn't work. Any help?

Arthur Dent

We're not all that familiar with GTE phone companies but hopefully some of our readers are. We do know that some phone companies hide loop numbers and other tests in the 00XX area instead of 99XX. Regarding residential lines that somehow managed to get 99XX numbers, it's very easy to get your local operator to believe those numbers belong to the phone company. We know of several instances where the caller claimed to be calling the telephone company and so was never charged!

LDX is going to have to help you with your problem, assuming you have a valid legal code. If not, get one so you can at least ask them some questions.

Preacher Hams

Dear 2600:

I picked up a copy of the magazine

Free Inquiry at the bookstore today. The cover article was written by James Randi (the magician who debunks lots of ESP frauds). In fact, the magazine seems to be run by the same folks who do the Skeptical Inquirer, but is slanted more towards religious debunking.

Randi's article was titled "Peter Popoff Reaches Heaven via 39.17 Megahertz". Popoff is one of the most notorious TV faith healers. Randi's group went to the shows and noticed that Popoff wore a hearing aid. Then they got a scanner and quickly found the frequency his wife was using to tell him the names and illnesses of people whom she had pumped for information before the show.

Now ponder the fact that the Communications Privacy Act would have made this expose illegal. The conversation was meant to be private, and Popoff certainly would have objected to its interception.

Could there be a connection here? Hmm.....

Phil

Student Restrictions

Dear 2600:

I'm a student living on campus in a university in which one must dial 9 to obtain an outside line, thereby restricting our calls to local ones since the dormitory residents cannot be charged and are provided with free local service. The only methods we can use to make long distance calls are using a calling card, calling collect, or using some alternate long distance company. We can't even charge long distance calls to our home phone!

Operator-assisted calls don't work either. I'd like to know if anyone out there knows any ways to defeat this little phone system at our school. Could we lead the operator to believe that we're not calling from the dorms (for operator-assisted calls and third number billing calls)? Is it possible for

us to obtain a normal line, such as the one that our home phone has? I'm certain there are other readers in similar predicaments. Please help us.

An "English Soccer Fan"

Why is it that dormitory residents can't be charged for calls? It's important to determine if the system you have is incapable of this function or if it's some kind of a policy at your school.

We assume you've tried the obvious tricks such as putting a 1 or a 0 in front of the number you're dialing. You might even try dialing your own area code in front of the exchange, you're trying to reach (assuming it's inside your area code). The system might not be programmed to reject that.

It's possible that the operator has no way of verifying your phone number and that is the reason you're refused access. Make a credit card call to a number whose bill you have access to.

See what number the call shows up as having been dialed from. If it's the main switchboard of the university, then that is indeed the case. If you have a way of getting an ANI (Automatic Number Identification) on your outside line, see what it comes up as and thereby dialing that number. You might get a dial tone.

Finally, hack around inside your phone system. See what all other numbers besides 9 will get you. Usually, only certain numbers are reserved for actual phone numbers—the rest, particularly those beginning with 1, 7, or 8, can be for other outside lines, some with more access than others.

An Acronym Maker

Dear 2600:

After reading about your readers' interest in phone number acronyms, I thought I should send this in. This program originally appeared in the May 1985 issue of *The Transactor* magazine. This program was written

for the Commodore 64 but is easily modified to work with any other computer. The program goes through and gives every combination of letters for the phone number you enter. In a 7 digit phone number, there are 2,187 different combinations.

Note: In line 100, make sure not to include "Q" or "Z" as they do not appear on modern phones.

The Gladiator

```

100 LET=VAL(STR$(RANDOM$*365))
110 PRINT "GLADIATOR NUMBER"
120 NEXT=VAL
130 NEXT=VAL
140 LET=VAL(STR$(RANDOM$*365))
150 LET=VAL(STR$(RANDOM$*365))
160 NEXT=VAL
170 PRINT "1"
180 PRINT "1"
190 PRINT "1"
200 GOTO 1
210 PRINT "1"
220 GOTO 1
230 PRINT "1"
240 GOTO 1
250 PRINT "1"
260 NEXT=VAL
270 PRINT "1"
280 NEXT=VAL
290 PRINT "1"
300 NEXT=VAL
310 PRINT "1"
320 NEXT=VAL
330 PRINT "1"
340 NEXT=VAL
350 PRINT "1"
360 NEXT=VAL
370 PRINT "1"
380 NEXT=VAL
390 PRINT "1"
400 NEXT=VAL
410 PRINT "1"
420 NEXT=VAL
430 PRINT "1"
440 NEXT=VAL
450 PRINT "1"
460 NEXT=VAL
470 PRINT "1"
480 NEXT=VAL
490 PRINT "1"
500 NEXT=VAL
510 PRINT "1"
520 NEXT=VAL
530 PRINT "1"
540 NEXT=VAL
550 PRINT "1"
560 NEXT=VAL
570 PRINT "1"
580 NEXT=VAL
590 PRINT "1"
600 NEXT=VAL
610 PRINT "1"
620 NEXT=VAL
630 PRINT "1"
640 NEXT=VAL
650 PRINT "1"
660 NEXT=VAL
670 PRINT "1"
680 NEXT=VAL
690 PRINT "1"
700 NEXT=VAL
710 PRINT "1"
720 NEXT=VAL
730 PRINT "1"
740 NEXT=VAL
750 PRINT "1"
760 NEXT=VAL
770 PRINT "1"
780 NEXT=VAL
790 PRINT "1"
800 NEXT=VAL
810 PRINT "1"
820 NEXT=VAL
830 PRINT "1"
840 NEXT=VAL
850 PRINT "1"
860 NEXT=VAL
870 PRINT "1"
880 NEXT=VAL
890 PRINT "1"
900 NEXT=VAL
910 PRINT "1"
920 NEXT=VAL
930 PRINT "1"
940 NEXT=VAL
950 PRINT "1"
960 NEXT=VAL
970 PRINT "1"
980 NEXT=VAL
990 PRINT "1"
999 PRINT "1"

```

More TAP Woes

Dear 2600:

First let me say I enjoy your magazine very much and look forward to each issue.

There is to bring this subject in front of you again—I know how sick of it you must be...I realize you are in no way associated with TAP, but do you have any ideas on obtaining back issues? The only outlet I have discovered is the Consumertronics company, owned by John Williams, in New Mexico. What this guy is charging is outrageous. If the issues were coming straight from TAP, the \$2 he is asking is compared to TAP's 75 cents back issue rate) would be more than reasonable and pose no problem. But all he is doing is placing someone else's work on a copy machine and reselling it at a highly inflated rate. Then after all this he insists, "Please pay with cash." I think Mr. Williams should join us back in the real world. So scratch that idea.

(Continued from page 10)

| | | | | | |
|-----|---------|-----|---------|-----|----------|
| 547 | 575-812 | 576 | 575-113 | 577 | 585-847 |
| 548 | 575-813 | 578 | 575-114 | 578 | 585-852 |
| 549 | 575-814 | 579 | 575-115 | 579 | 585-857 |
| 550 | 575-815 | 580 | 575-116 | 580 | 585-862 |
| 551 | 575-816 | 581 | 575-117 | 581 | 585-867 |
| 552 | 575-817 | 582 | 575-118 | 582 | 585-872 |
| 553 | 575-818 | 583 | 575-119 | 583 | 585-877 |
| 554 | 575-819 | 584 | 575-120 | 584 | 585-882 |
| 555 | 575-820 | 585 | 575-121 | 585 | 585-887 |
| 556 | 575-821 | 586 | 575-122 | 586 | 585-892 |
| 557 | 575-822 | 587 | 575-123 | 587 | 585-897 |
| 558 | 575-823 | 588 | 575-124 | 588 | 585-902 |
| 559 | 575-824 | 589 | 575-125 | 589 | 585-907 |
| 560 | 575-825 | 590 | 575-126 | 590 | 585-912 |
| 561 | 575-826 | 591 | 575-127 | 591 | 585-917 |
| 562 | 575-827 | 592 | 575-128 | 592 | 585-922 |
| 563 | 575-828 | 593 | 575-129 | 593 | 585-927 |
| 564 | 575-829 | 594 | 575-130 | 594 | 585-932 |
| 565 | 575-830 | 595 | 575-131 | 595 | 585-937 |
| 566 | 575-831 | 596 | 575-132 | 596 | 585-942 |
| 567 | 575-832 | 597 | 575-133 | 597 | 585-947 |
| 568 | 575-833 | 598 | 575-134 | 598 | 585-952 |
| 569 | 575-834 | 599 | 575-135 | 599 | 585-957 |
| 570 | 575-835 | 600 | 575-136 | 600 | 585-962 |
| 571 | 575-836 | 601 | 575-137 | 601 | 585-967 |
| 572 | 575-837 | 602 | 575-138 | 602 | 585-972 |
| 573 | 575-838 | 603 | 575-139 | 603 | 585-977 |
| 574 | 575-839 | 604 | 575-140 | 604 | 585-982 |
| 575 | 575-840 | 605 | 575-141 | 605 | 585-987 |
| 576 | 575-841 | 606 | 575-142 | 606 | 585-992 |
| 577 | 575-842 | 607 | 575-143 | 607 | 585-997 |
| 578 | 575-843 | 608 | 575-144 | 608 | 585-1002 |
| 579 | 575-844 | 609 | 575-145 | 609 | 585-1007 |
| 580 | 575-845 | 610 | 575-146 | 610 | 585-1012 |
| 581 | 575-846 | 611 | 575-147 | 611 | 585-1017 |
| 582 | 575-847 | 612 | 575-148 | 612 | 585-1022 |
| 583 | 575-848 | 613 | 575-149 | 613 | 585-1027 |
| 584 | 575-849 | 614 | 575-150 | 614 | 585-1032 |
| 585 | 575-850 | 615 | 575-151 | 615 | 585-1037 |
| 586 | 575-851 | 616 | 575-152 | 616 | 585-1042 |
| 587 | 575-852 | 617 | 575-153 | 617 | 585-1047 |
| 588 | 575-853 | 618 | 575-154 | 618 | 585-1052 |
| 589 | 575-854 | 619 | 575-155 | 619 | 585-1057 |
| 590 | 575-855 | 620 | 575-156 | 620 | 585-1062 |
| 591 | 575-856 | 621 | 575-157 | 621 | 585-1067 |
| 592 | 575-857 | 622 | 575-158 | 622 | 585-1072 |
| 593 | 575-858 | 623 | 575-159 | 623 | 585-1077 |
| 594 | 575-859 | 624 | 575-160 | 624 | 585-1082 |
| 595 | 575-860 | 625 | 575-161 | 625 | 585-1087 |
| 596 | 575-861 | 626 | 575-162 | 626 | 585-1092 |
| 597 | 575-862 | 627 | 575-163 | 627 | 585-1097 |
| 598 | 575-863 | 628 | 575-164 | 628 | 585-1102 |
| 599 | 575-864 | 629 | 575-165 | 629 | 585-1107 |
| 600 | 575-865 | 630 | 575-166 | 630 | 585-1112 |

NOTE: IT'S NOW ILLEGAL TO LISTEN TO THESE FREQUENCIES!

(Continued on page 15)

TAP

(Continued from page 11)

observers without "window peaking" since there was no more job to be done. I was getting by on unemployment checks, and not much else. In August of 83 I got a phone call from Tom Edison. My house just got broken into and firebombed. Get this: TAP stuff out of here by Friday, or it all goes into the dumpster.

Tom had been sending tonight summer's day riding roller coasters, which are pretty numerous in the New York area (if you know where to look, and you have a car). He got home to find the trucks and police cars. The cops said it was a real professional break-in. They took the 541-20 computer, all the disks, the printer, the disk drives, and other associated computer gear. The fire marshal said it was a real analoure arson.

The break-in guys had poured some flammable liquid (gasoline most likely) in it, and run that. They didn't open the windows to let it get air, so the fire upstairs died out quickly when the available air was used up. In the living room downstairs, however, the heat was intense enough to cause the picture window to shatter, leading the fire in that part of the house. Meg's kids called the fire department.

Tom's insurance was supposed to take care of the damage, but the insurance adjuster was coming that Friday, and Tom wanted to have the stuff out of his house by then. So my roommate, also an unemployed ex-hippy, helped me strategize what was left of TAP/Tom's basement (which was in all the headlines).

This includes boxes full of back issues, the damn copier that still didn't work (we put it in the driveway), one exhibit of the 1972 Phone Phreak Convention that included a working Redbox that "yanks" to the central office like the electronic tones generated by modern pay phones when money is dropped in, and the Directory Assistance files. DA was savvy that Tom can. If you sent some real information, and mentioned some kind of stuff you wanted to return, they'd run off copies on the recipient, deconstruct copier, and pop it in the mail to you.

My roommate, J.P. McClintock, worked with me to get the next few issues of TAP out, and in the mail. It was a bitch. Everything took longer than expected, and there were few people we could call on to help when we finally got around to things.

Tom came by my own section. I sent a storage locker in Flatbush and when I couldn't get hold, went back to you "guess?" into the dumpster. All those precious back issues. What a pain.

Since the eviction, I haven't had the resources, or the time, since I still have yet to find real "spinal" employment. I've been surviving solely by getting articles on damn communications to a New York based magazine, and I wash every few months at a local

college (database of course). I also occasionally had a few microcomputer read "IBM-PC", some that's the only market you'd be consulting clients.

Lately, though, there have been people who wanted to take over TAP. One group I'd even liked to help, since they seemed to understand what TAP was about. Now I'm not so sure. The kids that are getting into TAP these days aren't reading that unless they watch their sleep, they could get into very serious trouble. And of course, it can't happen to me.

I recently attended a communications security conference in Washington, DC where a number of exhibitors were former subscribers to TAP, and in fact, had gotten into the business because they had so much fun as kids with tapping and bugging gear, that they had to get into the business to lay further their interest. In fact, this is why I don't feel there is as heavy a need to publish TAP, or TAP-like things anymore. The readers who need TAP and others like it are in the corporate arena, wondering what those kids are up to now. The kids have the electronic Bulletin Board Systems (BBS's). Today, any 12-year-old with a Commodore 64 has the best system cracker to hit the spare-time Wangs came out.

I'll admit that computerized "publishing" of information may not yet have the first American production that print media seems to enjoy. And if these kids keep trying to get into the computers of government installations, they shouldn't be surprised that some Fed takes it into the head to "take out the threat". Remember, he's expecting head and his crooked to be at the other end of the monoton.

I realized a long time ago that if the Soviets ever came over here first, they'd like me who know how to manipulate the communications network on behalf of otherwise unorganized readers being readable would not be looked kindly upon. That government (generally not my friend). My own government seems to emulate them a lot in its behavior, but as the old 60's adage states, "Just because you're paranoid doesn't mean they're not out to get you." Even in grade school, when I recited the Pledge of Allegiance, after it got to "and to the republic for whom it stands", I would think to myself, "but what it's become."

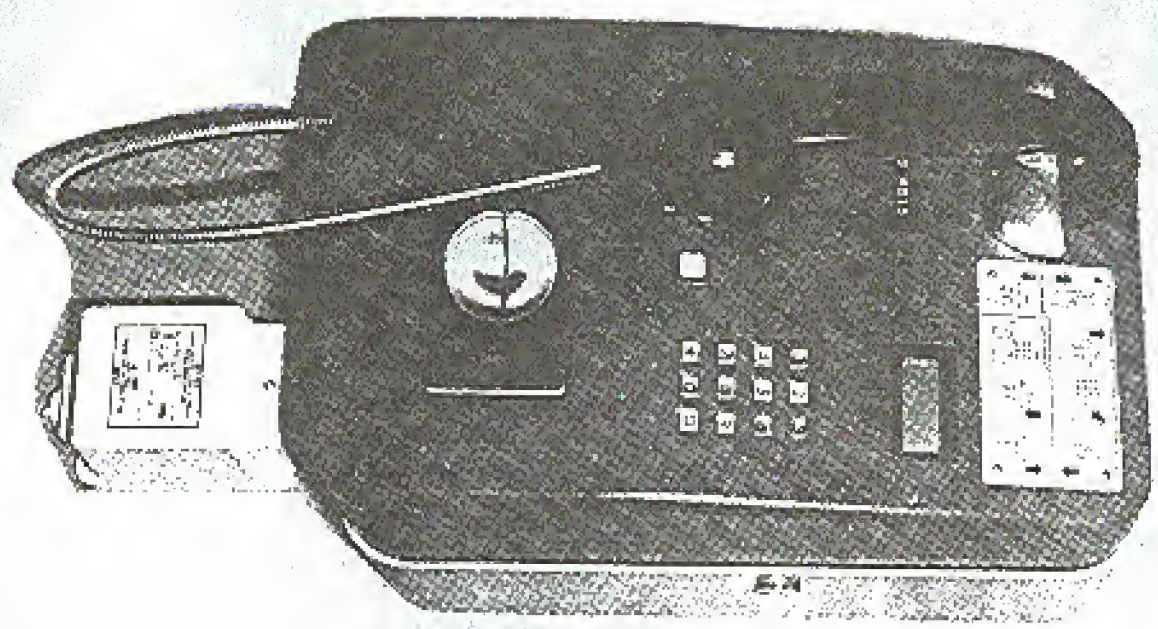
As a result, I looked at TAP as being the "Red Scout Manual" for the days when a "Technology call Underground" might be needed. For this reason, I'm sorry that TAP couldn't go on longer. But the kids don't realize how much power these Com-64s and Apples represent, and therefore, how much responsibility they should carry.

When you stop to think about how most computers can do, and how people believe a computer printout, whether it displays facts or fiction, the power to

(Continued on page 17)

(continued from page 14)

| | | | | | | | |
|-----|----------|-----|----------|-----|----------|-----|-----------|
| 445 | 8351.929 | 521 | 8573.478 | 597 | 9232.648 | 673 | 9893.148 |
| 446 | 8363.758 | 522 | 8585.438 | 598 | 9244.458 | 674 | 9905.038 |
| 447 | 8375.618 | 523 | 8597.308 | 599 | 9256.298 | 675 | 9916.988 |
| 448 | 8387.418 | 524 | 8609.198 | 600 | 9268.178 | 676 | 9928.998 |
| 449 | 8399.248 | 525 | 8621.108 | 601 | 9280.088 | 677 | 9940.988 |
| 450 | 8411.118 | 526 | 8633.038 | 602 | 9292.028 | 678 | 9952.948 |
| 451 | 8423.028 | 527 | 8645.008 | 603 | 9303.998 | 679 | 9964.888 |
| 452 | 8434.968 | 528 | 8656.998 | 604 | 9315.998 | 680 | 9976.818 |
| 453 | 8446.938 | 529 | 8669.008 | 605 | 9328.028 | 681 | 9988.738 |
| 454 | 8458.938 | 530 | 8681.038 | 606 | 9340.078 | 682 | 9999.648 |
| 455 | 8470.968 | 531 | 8693.098 | 607 | 9352.148 | 683 | 10000.558 |
| 456 | 8482.998 | 532 | 8705.178 | 608 | 9364.238 | 684 | 10000.468 |
| 457 | 8495.058 | 533 | 8717.278 | 609 | 9376.348 | 685 | 10000.378 |
| 458 | 8507.138 | 534 | 8729.398 | 610 | 9388.468 | 686 | 10000.288 |
| 459 | 8519.238 | 535 | 8741.538 | 611 | 9400.608 | 687 | 10000.198 |
| 460 | 8531.358 | 536 | 8753.698 | 612 | 9412.768 | 688 | 10000.108 |
| 461 | 8543.498 | 537 | 8765.878 | 613 | 9424.948 | 689 | 10000.018 |
| 462 | 8555.658 | 538 | 8778.078 | 614 | 9437.148 | 690 | 10000.008 |
| 463 | 8567.838 | 539 | 8790.298 | 615 | 9449.368 | 691 | 10000.008 |
| 464 | 8579.998 | 540 | 8802.538 | 616 | 9461.608 | 692 | 10000.008 |
| 465 | 8592.178 | 541 | 8814.798 | 617 | 9473.868 | 693 | 10000.008 |
| 466 | 8604.378 | 542 | 8827.078 | 618 | 9486.148 | 694 | 10000.008 |
| 467 | 8616.598 | 543 | 8839.378 | 619 | 9498.448 | 695 | 10000.008 |
| 468 | 8628.838 | 544 | 8851.698 | 620 | 9510.768 | 696 | 10000.008 |
| 469 | 8641.098 | 545 | 8864.038 | 621 | 9523.108 | 697 | 10000.008 |
| 470 | 8653.378 | 546 | 8876.398 | 622 | 9535.468 | 698 | 10000.008 |
| 471 | 8665.678 | 547 | 8888.778 | 623 | 9547.848 | 699 | 10000.008 |
| 472 | 8677.998 | 548 | 8901.178 | 624 | 9560.248 | 700 | 10000.008 |
| 473 | 8690.338 | 549 | 8913.598 | 625 | 9572.668 | 701 | 10000.008 |
| 474 | 8702.698 | 550 | 8926.038 | 626 | 9585.108 | 702 | 10000.008 |
| 475 | 8715.078 | 551 | 8938.498 | 627 | 9597.568 | 703 | 10000.008 |
| 476 | 8727.478 | 552 | 8950.978 | 628 | 9610.048 | 704 | 10000.008 |
| 477 | 8739.898 | 553 | 8963.478 | 629 | 9622.548 | 705 | 10000.008 |
| 478 | 8752.338 | 554 | 8975.998 | 630 | 9635.068 | 706 | 10000.008 |
| 479 | 8764.798 | 555 | 8988.538 | 631 | 9647.608 | 707 | 10000.008 |
| 480 | 8777.278 | 556 | 9001.098 | 632 | 9660.168 | 708 | 10000.008 |
| 481 | 8789.778 | 557 | 9013.678 | 633 | 9672.748 | 709 | 10000.008 |
| 482 | 8802.298 | 558 | 9026.278 | 634 | 9685.348 | 710 | 10000.008 |
| 483 | 8814.838 | 559 | 9038.898 | 635 | 9697.968 | 711 | 10000.008 |
| 484 | 8827.398 | 560 | 9051.538 | 636 | 9710.608 | 712 | 10000.008 |
| 485 | 8839.978 | 561 | 9064.198 | 637 | 9723.268 | 713 | 10000.008 |
| 486 | 8852.578 | 562 | 9076.878 | 638 | 9735.948 | 714 | 10000.008 |
| 487 | 8865.198 | 563 | 9089.578 | 639 | 9748.648 | 715 | 10000.008 |
| 488 | 8877.838 | 564 | 9102.298 | 640 | 9761.368 | 716 | 10000.008 |
| 489 | 8890.498 | 565 | 9115.038 | 641 | 9774.108 | 717 | 10000.008 |
| 490 | 8903.178 | 566 | 9127.798 | 642 | 9786.868 | 718 | 10000.008 |
| 491 | 8915.878 | 567 | 9140.578 | 643 | 9799.648 | 719 | 10000.008 |
| 492 | 8928.598 | 568 | 9153.378 | 644 | 9812.448 | 720 | 10000.008 |
| 493 | 8941.338 | 569 | 9166.198 | 645 | 9825.268 | 721 | 10000.008 |
| 494 | 8954.098 | 570 | 9179.038 | 646 | 9838.108 | 722 | 10000.008 |
| 495 | 8966.878 | 571 | 9191.898 | 647 | 9850.968 | 723 | 10000.008 |
| 496 | 8979.678 | 572 | 9204.778 | 648 | 9863.848 | 724 | 10000.008 |
| 497 | 8992.498 | 573 | 9217.678 | 649 | 9876.748 | 725 | 10000.008 |
| 498 | 9005.338 | 574 | 9230.598 | 650 | 9889.668 | 726 | 10000.008 |
| 499 | 9018.198 | 575 | 9243.538 | 651 | 9902.608 | 727 | 10000.008 |



A British Telecom card-reader phone.

Photo by John Drake

letters

(Continued from page 17)

Here are some numbers you may find interesting. At 800-538-7002 is a demo recording belonging to VYNet. A voice gives you information about their services and has you input your phone number and then repeats it to you. At 800-554-4477 is the "TeleTax" system belonging to the IRS. A variety of options may be entered from your touch tone phone.

Arab 149

Thanks for the info. Regarding TAP, \$2 isn't all that unreasonable considering the effort involved in getting ahead of these issues in the first place. The mere fact that no one is doing any better should tell you something. As far as selling something that really doesn't belong to you in the first place, that's something else. Then again, it's TAP, not The Wall Street Journal.

800 Directories

Dear 2600:

Is there such a thing as a WATS directory? If so, how do you get one? If not, would it be possible to generate one for experimental uses?

Cocopelli

If you call 800 information enough times, eventually one of those operators is going to ask you if you're interested in getting an AT&T 800 directory. They'll give you a phone number to call, but you can call 8002220300 to get more info.

AT&T offers two books, one for people and one for businesses. These are probably the most complete books around but there are quite a lot of 800 numbers that aren't publicly listed. That's where a phreak/hacker version comes in handy. We need people to help organize this.

You might also try wandering around some bookstores. There are several

full-free guides out there that may have additional numbers.

Searching for ANI

Dear 2600:

I'm also trying to find out what my ANI is in the 215 area code. I tried all the numbers that were printed, and nothing worked. I even called the operator and asked for the Drop Line ID. She asked me what my code was. Eventually, I had to hang up. I ran out of codes.

P.S. Please devote more articles on phone numbers instead of computers. Not everyone has a computer, but everyone has a phone!

Also frustrated in PA

The trick to finding your ANI is to make a little sheet of all possible exchanges in your area code, even ones with 7's or 0's as the second and/or third number (211, 706, etc.). Then go through the front of your phone book where they list all active exchanges. (You may need other phone books to complete your area code.) Put a check next to all the exchanges that are in use. The ones that are left are the ones you have to check out. Sometimes you may have to put a 1 in front of the exchange, sometimes you may have to dial seven numbers after the "exchange". Even if you don't find your ANI in this fashion, you'll probably find something else.

We know that in some parts of 215, dialing 410 plus four digits gets you an ANI. But it could be completely different in your area.

In answer to your last point, everybody may not have a computer, but more than a few computers have you in their database. And that's why it's important.

2600 marketplace

HEY YOU! This is the chance you've been waiting for! A new service of 2600 Magazine. Got something to sell? Looking for something to buy? Or trader? This is the place! And it's free to subscribers! Just send us whatever you want to say (without making it too long) and we'll print it! And, if you send in the only ad we get, you'll get the entire page to yourself! Only purple please, no businesses!

PHONES

So few of us really see the possibilities when we look at our telephones. But just think of what's really there. Especially today.

With a telephone, you can take a trip to anywhere. The average person sees it as an everyday tool, an annoyance, a necessity, nothing to play with, nothing to wonder about, nothing to get excited about. What a pity. But in a way, how much better for folks like us who recognize the beauty of it all.

We pick up the phone and we hear a dialtone. The game is afoot. Where are we going? Who are we going to speak to? What exchanges work near us? What area codes work throughout the country? Can we make international calls? How many different operators can we find and what can we make them do? On a phone, there is only one way to be judged. Your voice tells the whole story and if you can do things with your voice, there is no limit to what you can do over a telephone. This column, and in many ways this whole publication, is dedicated to those who have made telephone use into an art form.

Ask the average person what they think of the A.T.&T. hookup and you'll hear what a bad idea it was. Ask the average telephone repairman and you'll probably get a 40 minute dissertation. (We should listen to these—they can be very revealing.) Ask an elderly person and you may even see some tears. What does this tell us? Did Judge Greene make a mistake? Will making a phone call ever be a simple process again?

All of a sudden phone calls are being treated differently—as a product instead of a natural right we're all kind of born into. We have to make decisions now where they were made for us before. It's all kind of like racial integration. Some preferred the status quo, but it's obvious the system had to change to even

approach being fair. And that means we all have to work a little harder, at least for a while to come. We may not even get it right the first or second time. But it's a change that had to happen. I hope of us who understand it all a bit better than others should lend a hand and not assume the answers will show up in the front of the phone book.

While the mood here in the States is negative, over in England it's indifference. British

Telecommunications P.L.C.' was denationalized in late 1984 and according to a recent survey, 72% of those polled think the quality of telephone service hasn't changed since. Another 12% thought service had improved. We thought it had declined, and 6% had no opinion whatsoever.

Meanwhile, British Telecom has launched a new service for the London area called Talkabout. It enables up to ten telephone callers from the same area to be linked together on the phone for a chat.

There are two lines to choose from. Both are available 24 hours a day. One is for adults who dial 0055 0055 to join the service. The other is the service for teenagers up to 18 years, who dial 0055 0055.

Callers to the service first hear a recorded message telling them the cost of the call, informing them that all calls are monitored, and—for the teenage line—advising them to tell their parents that they are calling the service. This message is followed by a tone and customers are then linked in with the other callers. The tone alerts other callers that they have a new member joining their group.

So that callers do not lose track of the time, a buzzer sounds every ten minutes on the adult line to remind people how long they have been connected, and

TAP

(continued from page 15)

desire people's files is also available. The case of the Newsweek reporter harassed by some 1500 crackers who made his life miserable is a case in point.

In spite of what I said earlier, I look forward to reading publications like 2600 and Processor World (which calls itself "the magazine with the bac attitude," 55 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA). They point out that life should not be made miserable now that the technology no longer belongs only to the corporations, but that computers and communications can make better lives for those who apply the technology for themselves, and for others (sorry for getting the editorial all over your shirt, it will wash right out).

So that's the basic story. There's some stuff I've left out, and some things we'll never know. Tom Edison still had a job to protect, so we couldn't ask for a full investigation of those we'd like to have had directed out. At least not without more running out than would have been healthy for him and his job. I haven't seen him since, but I do see the U-Haul out of his driveway. I hope he's doing OK. JP moved to the west coast after the election, where he's doing fine. And if anyone needs a microcomputer support person with a database background, just give me a call, and my resume will be sent to your nearest BBS.

(303) 441-0101

There is no doubt that TAP is dead. This might be exactly underlined, or nothing wonderful can come of the story that has just been related.

Old TAP is as dead as a doornail. In fact, since 1983 it's been pretty obvious that TAP's hour was in serious question. But it wasn't until July of 1988 that their mailing was ceased. Up until then, by his own admission, the cash that unwilling subscribers sent went right into Bester of Chestnut's pocket. TAP has certainly left us all with a rather bad taste in our mouths.

There have been many claims and rumors with regards to starting a new TAP. Since we began publishing in 1984, we've heard at least two dozen such reports, none of which has names anywhere close to fruition. And we think that's foolish—TAP should be allowed to rest in peace without others attempting to cash in on their name. Actually, anyone who tried to do that would probably hear more of a hassle than all of the outraged customers who were short-changed by TAP.

So consider this our end. We'll always remember TAP. We'll always be passing back issues back and forth among ourselves. And some of us will even go to the weekly meetings still known as TAP meetings held at New York City. But there'll never be, nor should there be, another TAP magazine.

Changes

(continued from page 15)

come on the scene. We've always looked at hackers and phreaks as being the possible subtraction of our techno-stazy society. Somebody must know the way certain parts of the machine work and how to relate that to human needs. Give us the chance and we'll show you all kinds of little details that are right there in front of you.

Our format is not the only thing that is changing. Our prices will be changing as of February 15. Details are within this issue. And starting in March, our issues will be mailed without envelopes, just like most other magazines. There is no reason to be alarmed by this—2600 is not an underground or "illegal" publication. However, if you want your issues mailed in envelopes, contact us by March. At the moment, there's no additional charge for this service.

We hope to see more of you become involved with the production of 2600. Send us articles, pictures, opinions, or whatever else comes to mind. The address is 2600, PO Box 99, Middle Island, NY 11953-0099.

We also want your opinions on our new format. Do you like it, do you hate it, is the type too small, etc. This change was based on your previous comments so we do listen.

You may even see some copies of 2600 on newsstands in the near future. If you know of a newsstand or distributor that would be interested in carrying us, let us know. And if you're interested in setting advertising for 2600, we'd really like to hear from you.

operators personally interrupt calls on all lines approximately every ten minutes to record them at the cost of using the service.

In addition, callers to the teenage line are automatically cut off after ten minutes.

We've seen it before; many phone companies in the United States have already given this a try. But the phone phreaks have been doing it the longest—either through teleconferencing or loops. People and companies try making money in the strangest ways.

Conferencing is only one. Now there's even competition for what you listen to while on hold!

Businesses have begun to program customized advertisements—pitching everything from corporate securities to used trucks—for customers who get put on hold. But Robert D. Horner, president of The Hold Co. Inc. of Fort Washington, Pennsylvania says, "We don't like to call it advertising." Can anyone blame him?

Meanwhile, W. Ewan Sleane of San Diego has started a telephone service that offers advice on how to beat drug testing at the workplace. The two-minute, tape-recorded message provides callers with information on the lengths of time that commonly used illicit drugs stay in the body and suggests ways to discuss urine samples to mask evidence of drug use.

Sleane's a member of a group called Question Authority which he defines as "an attempt to focus some common sense on what's going on in our lives. The little guy is getting beaten down by this and doesn't know how to defend himself because he assumes these tests are accurate. We believe having people

to take a urine test to get or keep a job is unwarranted search and is unconstitutional."

Not to mention unpleasant. As is the latest move within the Soviet Union to eliminate unidirectional dialing. It's all part of Gorbachev's drive to reduce government subsidies.

Soviets currently pay the equivalent of a couple of dollars a month for as many local phone calls as they want. But the party is over. All calls will have to be paid for very soon.

The Soviet phone system has its problems. Every call to another city or out of the country must be booked through the operator and it can take hours to get through. Direct dialing was introduced briefly just before the 1980 Olympics, but was then abruptly reevaluated.

It's also next to impossible sometimes to get phone numbers since directories aren't available. You can call directory assistance, but the number is almost always busy. And if you need the number of someone with a certain name, you'll be turned away.

But things may be looking up for the folks in Yugoslavia. The phone companies of the Slovenian Republic and Ljubljana have ordered the country's first System 12 digital telephone exchange. This will lead to local manufacture of nearly 700,000 lines of System 12 in Yugoslavia over a five-year period.

There's a lot going on down those little telephone wires. Telecommunications may indeed be a business for some, but for the entire human race it's becoming a vital link, a taste of freedom. We can never let control slip from our fingers.

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This is your last chance to beat the price increase. On February 15, 1987, our prices are going up. But if you act now, you can renew your subscription at the old price.

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